

DEFENSE DAILY

Dec. 19, 1994

Pg. 391

**STUDIES NOT BIASED AGAINST B-2, PERRY ASSURES NUNN***By Sheila Foote*

Defense Secretary Perry reassured Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) in a Dec. 5 letter that bomber studies DoD is conducting at Congress' request will "comply with the intent and the specifics of legislation as you request."

Following an article in *The Wall Street Journal* that quoted Perry as saying he was not interested in more B-2s, Nunn reportedly called Perry and expressed concern that the defense secretary's opinion would bias the outcome of the bomber studies. Perry wrote the letter to "restate my basic position on the B-2 and explain how the Department will conduct the FY 1995 Heavy Bomber Force Study directed by the Congress."

Perry said, "the B-2 is a wonderful airplane, and it would be great to have more of them. But like a lot of other things I'd like to put in the defense budget, I am not, at this time, willing to sacrifice other needs to add more B-2s."

"We are necessarily emphasizing readiness and quality of life. Within the investment accounts more B-2s do not compete favorably with other systems that must be improved."

In conducting a study of the bomber industrial base, DoD plans to "examine the benefits of various bomber force structures, including some with more than 20 B-2s," Perry said. "In those cases, we will also examine what we would forego in order to afford the additional B-2s. Should our consideration of the requirements, cost-effectiveness, and industrial base portions of the study indicate that we should buy more B-2 aircraft, we will readdress this in the context of the Department's total needs."



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

2494

5 DEC 1994

4528

Honorable Sam Nunn  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Sam,

During a recent interview with Tom Ricks of the Wall Street Journal, I responded to a question concerning the future of the B-2 bomber. This attracted a number of headlines to the effect that I am strongly opposed to renewing work on the aircraft. I would like to take this opportunity to restate my basic position on the B-2, and explain how the Department will conduct the FY 1995 Heavy Bomber Force Study directed by the Congress.

With regard to my interview with the Wall Street Journal, I reiterated that I have testified several times on the B-2, and have seen no reason to change my testimony. The B-2 is a wonderful airplane, and it would be great to have more of them. But like a lot of other things I'd like to put in the defense budget, I am not, at this time, willing to sacrifice other needs to add more B-2s. We are necessarily emphasizing readiness and quality of life. Within the investment accounts more B-2s do not compete favorably with other systems that must be supported. This is what I conveyed. How it was reported is another story.

The Heavy Bomber Study will be an all-inclusive, objective study of bomber force requirements, an independent cost-effectiveness analysis of bomber programs, and an analysis of the bomber industrial base. It will comply with the intent and the specifics of legislation as you would expect.

Study guidelines and tasking memorandums are being finalized. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, Paul Kaminski, will chair an executive committee to provide study oversight. The Joint Staff, the Services, and my staff will be represented. The Institute for Defense Analyses has already started work in gathering the latest data for the requirements study and cost-effectiveness analysis. We are still evaluating options for conducting the bomber industrial base study.

In the course of the study, we will examine the benefits of various bomber force structures, including some with more than 20 B-2s. In those cases, we will also examine what we would forego in order to afford the additional B-2s. Should our consideration of the requirements, cost-effectiveness, and industrial base portions of the study indicate that we should buy more B-2 aircraft, we will readdress this in the context of the Department total needs.

5 DEC 1994

23751

2495

I hope that this letter allays your concerns on my views on the B-2 and the upcoming bomber study. As always I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*William J. Perry*